REMARKS

Claims 1- 19 are pending. Amendment to and cancellation of the claims does not affect inventorship.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect one of the following groups of inventions:

I. Claims 1-12, and 19, drawn to an interferon, classified in class 530, subclass 350.

II. Claims 13-18, drawn to nucleic acids, expression vectors, host cells and method of producing interferon, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1 and 23.5, 435/320.1 and 435/325..

Applicants elect **Group I, claims 1-12,** drawn to an interferon, without traverse.

Species Election

The Examiner further requires a species election to an IFN. Applicants elect IFN-beta, without traverse. Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 19 read on the elected species.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (415) 781-1989 if any issues may be resolved in that manner.

Dated: February 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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